

**Information Item: Introduction of new professional staff members – Division of State Parks**

The Division of State Parks would like to introduce sixteen new assistant property managers and one new reservoir specialist.

**Joe Compton – Assistant Property Manager, Lincoln State Park/Colonel Jones Home**

- Hometown: Lincoln City
- College: Bachelor of Science in Architectural Sciences from Western Kentucky University in 2010
- Past Work Experiences: I work at Lincoln State Park seasonally through college and was hired on full time at the park shortly after graduation.
- Interesting fact: As a kid, the best part of my summer breaks were spent traveling to various national and state parks around the country which is what spurred my interest for a career in parks and recreation management.

**Steven DeLorenzo – Assistant Property Manager, Brookville Lake/Whitewater Memorial State Park**

- Hometown: Winamac
- College: 2015 - Purdue University, Mechanical Engineering Technology: Minor, Organizational Leadership
- Past Work Experiences: I worked for Tippecanoe River State Park for five seasons as an intermittent employee, in a variety of positions. I also worked at Prophetstown State Park for the remainder of one season helping with their resource management crew. I have done volunteer work at multiple other properties as well.
- Interesting Facts: My favorite hobby is using my CNC mill to do wood engraving

**Kenna Duguay - Assistant Property Manager, Shakamak State Park**

- Hometown: Sullivan
- College: I attended Indiana University and Indiana State University where I completed a bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology in 2011.
- Past Work Experiences: I began working for Shakamak State Park in 2005 as a lifeguard. I continued to work summers through college and worked as waterfront director, seasonal gate staff, and office clerk. After a few seasons, I took the full time security position at Shakamak. It was during this time that the office manager became ill, and I became the interim office manager. I had the pleasure of helping train, at the time the new and now, current office manager. I then went back out in the park, as Security. It was then that I took another position away from the park, but when the assistant managers position opened again, I applied. I now have the pleasure to work for the Indiana DNR as the Assistant Property Manager for Shakamak State Park.
- An interesting fact: In my free time I train and work dual purpose k-9's for District 7 Task force out of Vigo County.

**Lynda Ellington – Assistant Property Manager, McCormick's Creek State Park**

- Home town : Poland, IN
- College: Bachelor of Science in Recreation Management from Indiana State University 2006
- Past Work Experiences: As a high school student in 2000-2001, I worked as a Naturalist Aide at Lieber SRA. I chose Recreation Management as my major at ISU because of that position. I was the Assistant Property Manager at Shakamak State Park from 2011-2015.
- Interesting fact: I have a minor in Physical Education and taught dance throughout high school and college. I spent several years leading a roofing crew for my father's construction company.

**Justin Emmons – Wildlife Specialist, Salamonie Lake**

- Hometown: Anderson
- College: 2012 B.S. - Biology w/ wildlife concentration from Ball State University.
- Past Work Experience: I've worked as a wildlife technician and naturalist for several federal and state organizations including the US Army Corps of Engineers in Oregon, the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Southern Indiana and Texas, and with IDNR at Mounds State Park.
- Interesting Facts: The only meat I consume is what I get when I hunt and I'm a birder w/ 300+ species on my life list.

**Kim Geiger – Assistant Property Manager, Lieber State Recreation Area**

- Hometown: Wauseon, OH
- College: Huntington University, Bachelor of Science, 2009.
- Past Work Experiences: Six years seasonal employee at Salamonie Lake. I spent time learning all the roles; restroom, mowing, labor (maintenance) and gatehouse. I also spent time as an interpreter. My final year at Salamonie, full time security officer.
- I am an avid backpacker, father of four children and once was a studio drummer in California.

**Lauren Hensel - Assistant Property Manager, Chain O'Lakes State Park**

- Hometown: Angola
- Education: BS – Saint Francis
- Past Work Experiences: I held a variety of positions at Pokagon State Park, starting as an intermittent employee as I worked through college eventually landing a full time position as the wastewater treatment plant operator before my promotion to assistant property manager at Chain O'Lakes State Park. While at Pokagon, I also worked part time at the Angola YMCA as the aquatics director.
- Interesting Facts: I swam competitively my entire life and still remain engaged in aquatic activities.

**Jacob McAvoy - Assistant Property Manager, Turkey Run/Shades State Parks**

- Hometown: Bluffton
- Education: Saint Joseph's College – B.S Wildlife Ecology, 2015
- Past Work Experiences: Seasonal laborer for two seasons, seasonal security for one season at Ouabache State Park and Resident Assistant for two years at Saint Joseph's College
- Interesting Fact: Working towards setting the Indiana powerlifting records for bench, deadlift and squat for the 185 pound weight class

**Shaun Payne – Assistant Property Manager, Salamonie Lake**

- Hometown: Riverdale, GA (suburb of Atlanta)
- College: BA in History from Anderson University 2009; MS in Historic Preservation from Ball State University 2012
- Work Experiences: Exhibit presenter at the Gulf Coast Exploreum in Mobile, AL. Led groups through educational traveling exhibits ranging from the Dead Sea Scrolls to artifacts from Pompeii. Also, taught classes on material pertaining to the featured exhibits. Began at Mounds SP as YHCC in 2010, worked there as a seasonal for a total of 4 years as: office clerk, naturalist aide, seasonal security, laborer. Worked full-time managing automotive repair shop in Anderson, IN while finishing my M.S. degree and working seasonally at Mounds. Was hired full time as APM at Turkey Run in May of 2014, transferred to Salamonie Lake in October 2015.
- Interesting Facts: My Father was career Marine, as such I've moved around a lot, I've lived in Georgia, Arizona (twice), Florida (twice), Alabama and now Indiana. I went to a total of four different universities: University of Mobile in Alabama, Palm Beach Atlantic University in Florida (where I met my wife, she transferred home to Indiana, I followed), Anderson University in Anderson and finally Ball State University in Muncie.

**Michael “Mickey” Rea – Assistant Property Manager, Indiana Dunes State Park**

- Hometown: Indianapolis – Northeast Side
- College: Purdue University – English and Political Science 2007; Indiana University – INDY Law 2011; IUPUI – MS – Public Affairs 2012
- Past Work Experience: DCS CHINS litigation attorney, assistant property manager, Salamonie Lake
- Interesting Facts: I collect guns and have visited 47 states and 8 countries.

**Jacob Shapely – Assistant Property Manager, Tippecanoe River State Park**

- Hometown: Uniondale
- College: 2014 BS in Environmental Science – Taylor University. 2015 MS in Environmental Education – Goshen College
- Past Work Experience: Estimator and project manager, Washington D.C. and then served as a season security officer at Ouabache State Park
- Interesting Facts: I love the game of basketball

**Tanner Snell – Assistant Property Manager, Summit Lake State Park**

- Hometown: Muncie, IN
- College: Ball State University – B.A. in Journalism 2003, Minor in Natural Resources
- Past Work Experiences: Worked 2 years as Seasonal Naturalist at Summit Lake State Park. Previous to that I worked 10 years for the Student Conservation Association doing a variety of work including wildland fire mitigation, invasive species removal, trail work and AmeriCorps program management.
- Interesting Fact: I play the banjo. My wife and I have a baby due in June.

**Alec Snelson – Assistant Property Manager, Ouabache State Park**

- Hometown: Indianapolis
- College: Indiana University, BS in Outdoor Recreation and Resource Management
- Past Work Experiences: USMC, Infantry, TOW Gunner, Sergeant
- Interesting fact: Graduated high school in a class of 8...

**Brad Walker – Assistant Property Manager, Versailles State Park**

- Home town: Lafayette
- College: Associates Degree from Ivy Tech in Business Administration with a specialty in Human Resources, Bachelor’s Degree from Purdue University in Business Administration with a specialty in Organizational Leadership.
- Past Work Experiences: I worked for the City of West Lafayette for seven years. First as Maintenance Tech II then I moved to Grounds Supervisor, and then I was promoted to Trial Manager.
- Interesting fact: I have ridden my motorcycle across America solo three times. I have not owned a T.V. since 1996. I play the banjo and drums.

**Jeremy Weber – Assistant Property Manager, Brookville Lake/Whitewater Memorial State Park**

- Hometown: Summitville
- College: B.S. in Forestry & Natural Resources from Purdue University, 1999. M.S. in Botany & Plant Pathology (specialized in Plant Ecology, studying native and invasive components of the understory plant communities of Indiana old-growth forests) from Purdue University, 2006.
- Past Work Experiences: I was a seasonal attendant at Whitewater in 1996 and seasonal laborer at Summit Lake in 1997. I was a student research assistant, working on vegetation control in

transportation rights-of-way (1997-1999) and helped teach tree climbing techniques to inner-city kids and Frank and Judy O'Bannon at the State Tree Climbing Championship.

I was a climbing arborist in Muncie and Lafayette and a Tree Crew Leader in Michigan City (1998-2000). I was a Field Supervisor and Project Manager for an ecological restoration company near South Bend (2000-2003). I was Ag & Natural Resources Extension Educator for Purdue in Franklin County (2007-2009), where I taught Master Gardener and Forest Stewardship classes, helped people start businesses, started a farmers' market, worked in Nigeria, and served as VP of the Area Plan Commission and on several other boards and committees, among other things. Also during that time, I was a consulting forester and worked for Phil Marshall on EAB and several other invasive species monitoring projects.

Most recently before coming to State Parks, I was the Extension Agent/County Chairperson for the Montana State University Extension Office in Silver Bow County (2009-2013), where I acted as the City Forester for Butte, ran the county's 4-H program, wrote and helped write several curricula, and brought in or helped bring in over \$100,000 in grants, among other things.

- Interesting Facts: I have lived in, worked in, or otherwise visited 91 of 92 counties in Indiana. I have lived in, worked in, or otherwise visited 42 states and 14 countries outside of the U.S. on 3 continents.

I once cut a tree that ended up being held up by grape vines. So I climbed the tree, cut the vines, and rode it down.

#### **Kyle Westerman – Assistant Property Manager, Prophetstown State Park**

- Hometown: New Haven
- College: Purdue University – BS Wildlife Biology
- Past Work Experience: Worked in manufacturing for 8 years and was a supervisor for 5 of those years. Returned to school to pursue a career in natural resources. Worked for USDA Wildlife Services for two years out of college. My previous supervisory duties helped prepare me for my positions as assistant property manager, Prophetstown State Park.
- Interesting Facts: I love to make things with my hands and invent things, sometimes with success.

#### **Daniel “Danny” Wetli – Assistant Property Manager, Mounds and Fort Harrison State Parks**

- Hometown: Fowler
- College: DePauw University, Biology, 2012
- Past Work Experiences: I worked in the seed industry, one year public and two years private. That experience allowed me to acquire both project management and supervisory skills. I also worked for a varmint catching company for 6 months prior to getting my current position that enabled me to develop people interaction and customer service skills.
- Interesting Facts: I am a 10 year 4-H member and I enjoy collecting wheat pennies.